During 1994-95 production target has been fixed at 81.15 lakh tonnes of Nitrogen and 23.31 lakh tonnes of phosphate. This indicates a growth rate of production by 12 per cent in Nitrogen & 28 per cent in phosphate over actual production during 1993-94. The indigenous production of fertilizers has been growing over the years. Howeer, the gap, if any, between the demand and indigenous availability of fertilizers will continue to be bridged by imports.

Price of Desferal

269. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a non-voluntary organisation has recently requested Government to reduce the price of life saving drug 'Desferal' used for the treatment of thalessamia; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard since the price had gone up from Rs. 155 tQ Rs- 695 per box of five vials recently for this drug?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The movement of the price of Desferal which is as imported formulation and not under price control in the last three years has been as following:

(Rs.)

Date	Price of 5 vials
5-7-91	410.00
1-3-92	290.00
31-12-92	370.00
28-5-93	493.00
1-3-94	528.40
22-6-94	669.80
27-9-94	611.48

import of Urea

270. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to

stare;

(a) whether Government have decided to import large quantity of Urea during the current year and if so, the details thereof and the total expenditure likely to be incurred in his regard;

(b) the details of the steps so far taken to ease the acute shortage of Urea during the current year with details of the results achieved; and

(c) whether Government propose to revive the closed units of sick Public Sector Units and if so, the details thereof and how much finance is necessary for their revival along-with the details of anticipated production of Urea of those units per annum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Imports of Urea are effected fr> bridge the gap

between demand and indigenous availability. During the year 1994-95, 11.70 lakh tonnes of Urea has been imported at a C&F cost of Rs. 583.64 crores till October 1994. Necessary arrangements have been made to meet the demand of Urea in accordance with the allocation made under the Essential Commodities Act by maximising the indigenous production & imports during the period of peak consumption.

.; an Fertilizers Cor. und Fertilizer Corporation of India (FCI) are the two producing Public Sector ch have been declared sick ■nies by the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, BIFR is evaluating all available alternatives for revival of these companies. The unit-wiseleompany-wise requirement of funds for revival would depend upon the revival plan to be approved by BIFR, which is a quasi-judicial authority. In the meantime, to enable HFC and FCI to continue operations upto March, 1995, Government have sanctioned additional non-plan support of Rs. 109.75 crores.

Subsidy to fertilizer units in Gujarat

271. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of subsidy given to fertilizer units in Gujarat during 1993-94;

(b) whether Government have paid subsidy to the fertilizer units in the State for the year 1994-95; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the subsidy is likely to be paid to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) During 1993-94 an amount of Rs. 509.23 crores was paid as subsidy to the various ... fer units located in Gujarat.

(b) and (c) A provision of Rs. 3500 crores has been made in the budget for 1994-95 for payment of subsidy on indigenous fertilizers. Out of this, the subsidy to be paid to the units in Gujarat would depend on their levels of production during the year. No state-wise allocation of subsidy is made in the budget. However, upto 30-11-1994 an amount of Rs. 319.50 crores had been paid as subsidy to the fertilizer units located in Gujarat.

Betamethasone Di-sodium phosphate

272. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: **Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:**

(a) when did the validity of exemption expire in respect of Betamethasone Di-sodium phosphate and what was its price before exemption and what is its price now;

(b) what was the price of formulations based on Betamethasone Di-sodium phosphate before exemption and what is their price now and what has been the production of Betamethasone Di-sodium phosphate during the past three years, year-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that the price of Betamethasone Di-sodium phosphate and its formulations have not been fixed even after the exemption from price control;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(e) when was the production of Betamethasone Di-sodium phosphate commenced by the company and is it a fact that the Ministry granted exemption after 20 years, if so, the circumstances and detailed reasons?